

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A lockset, comprising:

a lock mechanism having an aperture;

an operator; and

a turn-button mounted to said operator, said turn-button including:

5 a head portion; and

a shaft extending from said head portion, said shaft having a leading helical end

portion ~~for engaging that engages~~ said aperture of said lock mechanism.

2. (Original) The lockset of claim 1, said leading helical end portion having a plurality of leading helical surfaces that taper and twist from a transition line of said shaft toward a tip end of said shaft.

3. (Original) The lockset of claim 2, wherein said plurality of leading helical surfaces smoothly transition between adjacent helical surfaces.

4. (Original) A turn-button for a lockset, comprising:

a head portion; and

a shaft extending from said head portion, said shaft having a leading helical end portion.

5. (Original) The turn-button of claim 4, said leading helical end portion having a plurality of leading helical surfaces that taper and twist from a transition line of said shaft toward a tip end of said shaft.

6. (Original) The turn-button of claim 5, wherein said plurality of leading helical surfaces smoothly transition between adjacent helical surfaces.

7. (Original) A lockset comprising:  
a lock mechanism including an actuator having an aperture;  
an operator;  
a turn-button mounted to said operator, said turn-button including a shaft; and  
means for facilitating self-alignment of said shaft of said turn-button with said aperture of said lock mechanism as said shaft of said turn-button is inserted into said aperture of said lock mechanism.  
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8. (New) The lockset of claim 1, said lock mechanism including a rotatable actuator having said aperture, wherein once said leading helical end portion engages said aperture, a rotation of said turn-button effects a corresponding rotation of said rotatable actuator of said lock mechanism.

9. (New) The lockset of claim 7, said means including a plurality of leading helical surfaces that taper and twist from a transition line of said shaft toward a tip end of said shaft.

10. (New) The lockset of claim 9, wherein said plurality of leading helical surfaces smoothly transition between adjacent helical surfaces.